

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305845
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 SNM-05 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 H-01 L-03
INRE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:MPOWENS:JY
APPROVED BY EA:WGLEYSTEEN, JR.
EA/VLC:FZBROWN

-----129931 230147Z /62

O 230114Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, US, VM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE ON BRILLIG PREPARED FOR
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S USE:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THE VIETNAMESE CHARGE THAT THE CREW OF
THE BRILLIG WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN THE TERRITORIAL
WATERS OF VIETNAM?

A: WE STILL DO NOT KNOW THE LOCATION. ALL WE HAVE IS THE
VIETNAMESE CLAIM. AS YOU KNOW, THERE WAS NO INDEPENDENT
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ACCESS TO THE CREW AND, THEREFORE THEIR SIDE OF THE STORY
IS NOT KNOWN.

Q: WHAT HAVE THE VIETNAMESE TOLD YOU OF THE RESULTS OF
THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE?

A: THE VIETNAMESE SAID THE BRILLIG WAS FOUND TO BE

CARRYING LARGE QUANTITIES OF MARIJUANA AND THAT MS. DELLENBAUGH HAS SIGNED A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT MARIJUANA WAS ON BOARD. AGAIN, WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AND WILL NOT SPECULATE.

Q: IF THAT IS THE CASE, WHY ARE THE VIETNAMESE RELEASING THE CREW?

A: THE VIETNAMESE HAVE STATED THAT THE RELEASE IS A GOOD WILL GESTURE IN THE SPIRIT OF IMPROVING RELATIONS.

Q: WHERE AND WHEN WILL THE CREW BE RELEASED?

A: THE VIETNAMESE HAVE NOT GIVEN US THE DETAILS, BUT HAVE INDICATED IT WOULD COME BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

Q: WILL THE BOAT BE RELEASED?

A: WE DON'T KNOW.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE RELEASE OF THE CREW?

A: WE ARE RELIEVED THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO RELEASE THE THREE AMERICANS ABOARD THE BRILLIG AND THAT THEY ARE ALL REPORTED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH. THE RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER IS OVERDUE.
END TEXT.

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2. POSTS MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN ANSWERING QUERIES ON RELEASE OF BRILLIG CREW.

3. FOR POSTS INFORMATION: DURING PARIS TALKS DECEMBER 19-20, WE MADE CLEAR TO VIETNAMESE OUR UNHAPPINESS WITH HOW THEY HANDLED BRILLIG AFFAIR, PARTICULARLY DENIAL OF ACCESS BY A THIRD PARTY (ICRC, FRANCE). WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, WISH TO PROLONG THIS MATTER, AND POSTS SHOULD NOT SPECULATE ON VERACITY OF VIETNAMESE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CREW OR COMMENT ON ANY STATEMENTS CREW MIGHT MAKE.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 137818
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG
TAGS: PDIP, SOPN, US, VM
To: VIENTIANE RANGOON MULTIPLE
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6eb9cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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